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(*d*) the strength of the teaching staff in each; and

(*e*) the respective pay of the various members of the staff in both, separately.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) No, Sir. The Industrial Training Centre run by the Government of India at the Central Polytechnic, Madras, which provided facilities for both Draughtsman (Civil) and Draughtsman (Mechanical) courses had been closed down from the beginning of the academic year 1955.

(*b*) *to* (*e*) Do not arise.

Service conditions of district board employees

* 3154 *Q.*—SRI M. K. PADMAPRABHA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) the action taken by the Government to implement G.O. No. 3599, L. & M. of 1932, to the effect that the conditions of service of all district board employees shall be the same as those of Government servants of similar standing in so far as it applies to the employees of Malabar District Board,

(*b*) whether there is any difference in service conditions between the employees of the Malabar District Board and other Government servants of a similar standing; and

(*c*) If so, why?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYATCHI: (*a*) The conditions of service of the employees of the Malabar District Board are the same as those of Government servants of similar status and standing in respect of the following matters, namely:—

(i) Leave and leave allowances;

(ii) travelling allowance; and

(iii) superannuation and retirement.

(*b*) Yes, in respect of scales of pay of certain classes of employees; but the allowances are the same.

(*c*) The Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee appointed by this Government in 1947 did not recommend same scales of pay for State Government employees and district board employees.

* 3155 *Q.*—SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation recently from the Malabar District Board Superior Employees' Association for bettering their service conditions; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

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THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYATCHI : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) Government considered these resolutions and necessary orders have been passed and communicated to the Association.

Gratuity to retrenched workers of textile mills

* 3156 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the retrenched workers of the textile mills in the State were given any gratuity in 1954 and 1955; and

(*b*) if so, the number that was given such gratuity and the total amount given?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) During 1954, 144 persons were given gratuity amounting to Rs. 18,249-9-7. During 1955, there was no retrenchment up to 1st October 1955.

Loans to agriculturists under Community Projects and National Extension Service Schemes

* 3157 *Q.*—SRI P. K. MOOKIAH THEVAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the maximum amount fixed for special loans granted to bona fide agriculturists under the Community Projects and National Extension Service Schemes; and

(*b*) whether the Government are aware of the hardship felt by the agriculturists in obtaining encumbrance certificates required for the grant of these loans?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The maximum amounts fixed are as follows :—

(i) Loans under the Land Improvements Loans and Agriculturists Loans Act—

	Maximum amount. RS.
Individuals	3,000
Co-operative societies and groups of ayacutdars	5,000

(ii) *Loans under Hire Purchase System*—

Electric motor pumpsets	1,500
Oil engine pumpsets	3,000

(*b*) Yes, Sir.